

them. One simply states, "I have 3-year-old twins and a 9-year-old daughter, all of whom have been in Head Start and it has been a wonderful experience for them."

Another says, "It not only taught my daughter her 1-2-3s and ABCs but it also taught her self-esteem." And it concludes, "It has brought my family closer together."

Said another, "I cannot express to you how grateful I am for the life-changing experience Head Start gave to me."

Mr. Speaker, we must not change Head Start. It is too important, and it has helped too many people to improve their lives.

I am not simply speaking about what I heard. I worked in the Head Start program, first as an assistant teacher, then as supervisor of parent involvement and volunteer services where I got parents understanding that they could be in control of their children's educational destiny. These parents become successful parents in the PTA programs once they are transitioned into kindergarten. And that is what it is all about, involving parents in their children's education, helping them to know that they can make their children successful. So we do not want to mess with Head Start. We want to make sure, again, we support and nurture it.

#### CONTROL AMERICAN BORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to add another family to the list of what we are calling "homeland heroes." These are people who have faced incredible odds and very, very difficult times, who live on the border, northern and southern borders of this country, and are really in the middle of a war zone. And I do not use that term just figuratively. The things that are going on on our borders and the way these people are having to deal with them are truly worthy of note here on the floor of the House.

Tonight, I want to bring to the attention of the floor of the House Tom and Betty Jo Kuykendall. They own and operate a ranch only 34 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border of Douglas, Arizona. Their children and grandchildren have stayed in the ranching business and all live on nearby ranch lands.

The Kuykendalls are the heart of a 6-generation ranching family. For over 6 years they have lived in a war zone, as I say. All three of their grandchildren have been either threatened or physically attacked by illegal trespassers on their own property. When I say trespassers, I am not talking about folks who just are out for a Sunday walk. These are people coming across their property from Mexico and coming into the United States illegally.

It has been over the last 6 years that something has happened dramatically

and caused a dramatic difference. I should say, in the life-style of the people on that border. There have always been people coming from Mexico across that border, many of them illegal; but they have been in relatively few numbers. They will stop and ask for a job. The Kuykendalls in the past have offered jobs to these folks. They have gone on and come into the interior of the country. But in the last 6 years something has happened.

They are now coming across that border in hundreds, in fact, in thousands. The Border Patrol estimates that over a thousand people cross that border every single night in the area of the Kuykendall ranch. And what happens as a result of it? Well, their property is essentially destroyed. I was privileged to be a guest in their home, the Kuykendalls, and this is not too long ago, just several weeks ago. And, frankly, from their front yard, we could see people crossing their property, people coming into the United States illegally and crossing their property. You can see it any time of the day or night. It is, of course, more evident, more observable in the evening when the numbers become significantly higher than when there are people coming through in the daytime.

The Kuykendalls have had their dog poisoned because it had committed the crime of barking at the illegal trespassers when they came close to the ranch house. So their dog was poisoned. Illegal aliens have been caught trying to steal their horses, vehicles and ATVs on more than one occasion. One of the children's horses was stolen and found 3 days later several miles away.

A group of illegals accosted the Kuykendalls in their truck, beat on the truck and threatened them and ran only when a Border Patrol came on the scene. Some of the illegals who were apprehended were later proven to have criminal records as felons here in the United States, records of crimes ranging from murder to child molestation.

The Kuykendalls have personally observed and photographed drug smugglers crossing their land dressed in dark camouflage clothing and carrying assault rifles. The land itself is littered with discarded plastic bags, water bottles, and clothing items. The Kuykendalls' fences are torn down, gates are destroyed, water lines are cut, and unauthorized trails blazed by illegal immigrants while they trample the range land into bedrock.

These tribulations are typical of what all the ranchers in southern Arizona are experiencing to one degree or another. They suffer from a daily assault on their property and implicit assaults to their safety.

Tom and Betty Jo Kuykendall are trying to earn a living and raise a family by managing a ranch, which is hard work even in the best of circumstances. All of these assaults and intrusions on their property damage their property, cost these ranchers money, money for

repairs, for lost cattle, for damaged equipment, money many ranchers simply do not have; and several of their neighbors are now taking up bankruptcy.

The Kuykendalls have lived and worked under these outrageous conditions because we, this government, refuse to take the steps needed to secure our border. Unofficial numbers, as I say, from the Border Patrol say over a thousand cross every evening in that area.

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They know that that is actually a very conservative amount.

I hope that this Congress will take the steps necessary to secure the border. By failing to do so, we are betraying not only the Kuykendalls, but the liberties of every citizen affected by a growing tide of illegal immigration flooding across our borders day after day.

I salute Tom and Betty Jo Kuykendall and their children for their efforts in defense of their land, their property and their way of life and add them to the list of homeland heroes.

#### ACTIVE RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD STUDENT LOAN RELIEF ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak a little bit about H.R. 1168, which is the Active Reservists and National Guard Student Loan Relief Act of 2003.

As we heard the President speak last night, this country will soon be going to war, and we will soon be sending many young men and young women off to fight for this country. Some of these soldiers who will be fighting in the Middle East and around the world have attended school, have attended college. They have student loans that they owe back to the government, and my legislation is very simple. It does two things.

Once a soldier is activated, there is an automatic deferment of the loan, and the Federal Government will pay and subsidize the interest on that loan. I believe that is the least we can do for the soldiers that are going off and sacrificing. Many of these soldiers have mortgages, car payments, expenses. They are leaving their wives, their children behind, and many of them are taking a cut in pay.

I think it is a very simple piece of legislation. I encourage this body to pass it and include it in the supplemental. This was included and used by the first President Bush during Operation Desert Storm, and I think it should be promised to our troops today.

One example is that if a soldier has \$50,000 in loans taken out, that the Federal Government will step in and